

AGN. NO. ____

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**MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS AND
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Ever since it was originally settled, the Los Angeles Region has attracted diverse interests and cultures from around the world. Today, the County of Los Angeles (County) is the largest and most diverse County in the nation with more than 10 million people in 88 cities and approximately 140 unincorporated areas. The County of Los Angeles is among the world's 20 largest economies and the Board of Supervisors provides essential services to its residents through more than 35 departments. Through its services, the County provides strong leadership in shaping positive change and growth in its communities.

The Los Angeles River (River) is the centerpiece of the County connecting its 10 million residents as it flows from its headwaters in Canoga Park to its terminus in Long Beach. Throughout generations, the River has been a gathering place and a link

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between communities. In recent years, many organizations, agencies, and groups, including the County, have begun to view the River as a common opportunity for improving the lives of its residents. This opportunity is evident due to the numerous river-related issues that intersect with the County's many services and initiatives, such as combating homelessness, improving public health, remediating brownfields, supporting economic development, building parks and recreational facilities, elevating the importance of sustainability and environmental excellence, managing flood risk, promoting equity, and encouraging artistic expression. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to lead the vision for continued improvement and revitalization across the County using the River as the common connector.

The Board of Supervisors, through the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), has led the planning and begun implementation of numerous master plans for watersheds and river corridors within the County. Through these efforts, the County has implemented sustainable projects that balance flood protection, community connections, enhanced habitat and water quality, and improved water supply resiliency for the region.

In 1991, the County developed the Los Angeles River Master Plan with an Advisory Committee of approximately 50 members representing environmental and community groups, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies. The resulting Plan was a multi-objective guide for the River recognizing its primary purpose of flood protection while advocating for environmental enhancement, recreational opportunities, and economic development throughout the River corridor. This Plan was completed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1996. In the 20 years since its adoption,

the Plan has provided guidance and direction through tools such as landscaping standards and signage guidelines, and led to the construction of more than 50 projects and enhancements along the River, including bikeways, wetlands, multiuse parks, and greenways, with construction costs totaling almost \$200 million.

The River continues to attract multiple interests and there are several new planning efforts that have been done or are in process that envision the River as an asset to the many diverse groups and communities surrounding the River. These planning efforts include the:

Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report and its Recommended Plan (US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Los Angeles)

(Upper) Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (City of Los Angeles)

Los Angeles River Valley Greenway and Bikeway Project

Long Beach RiverLink (City of Long Beach)

Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan (Watershed Conservation Authority)

I-710 Corridor Project (Metro)

Los Angeles River Integrated Design Vision (River LA)

National Park Service Rim of the Valley Special Resource Area

Additionally, the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan is being developed in response to Assembly Bill 530 (AB 530). The AB 530 effort, introduced by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, is being guided by a local Working Group that includes representatives from the Board of Supervisors, elected officials from cities, and

executive level representation from other key agencies and organizations. AB530 intends for the completed Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, expected in 2017, to be incorporated in the County's update to the Los Angeles River Master Plan.

It is apparent that there is a need to link the various individual efforts along the 51 miles of the River system into a single, comprehensive plan through a transparent, community-based process ensuring all voices are heard. The 1996 Los Angeles River Master Plan needs to be updated to become an overarching Plan, grouping all ongoing and completed plans and studies for the River.

Historically, the County, through the LACFCD's operation and maintenance of the backbone system for regional flood control, has led master planning efforts including the 1996 Los Angeles River Master Plan. The County is, therefore, uniquely positioned to lead the effort to develop an Updated Los Angeles River Master Plan and establish a consistent vision to revitalize the entire River for the benefit of adjacent communities, County residents, and the environment.

In leading this new master planning effort, the County must continue to be committed to transparency and community engagement. During the development of the Updated Plan, the County will coordinate along the entire 51-mile River to ensure the document represents the cities, communities, and other varied stakeholders' goals and utilizes the various resources and expertise available within the numerous County departments. The County will also advocate for funding and grants for plan development and project implementation in all river jurisdictions.

River LA, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) nongovernmental organization, has recently embarked on its Los Angeles River Integrated Design Vision for all 51 miles of the

River. Through this effort, River LA has been engaging communities and elected officials throughout the region about the River and has compiled valuable data on stakeholder opinions and visions for the River, as well as a collection of existing studies and analyses of the River, known as the “LA River Index.” This information is an important resource to the County as it develops its Updated Los Angeles River Master Plan addressing the entire 51 miles of the River. Therefore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and River LA -- to share information and coordinate plan development through transparent community engagement -- is valuable.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LACFCD:

1. Direct the Department of Public Works to establish a steering committee comprised of regional agencies, city leaders, nonprofit and community groups and interested stakeholders to update the Los Angeles River Master Plan for the 51-mile Los Angeles River system;
2. Direct the Department of Public Works to establish a working group of County Departments including, but not limited to, Health Services, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, and Regional Planning, to coordinate County input on the Updated LA River Master Plan;
3. Direct the Department of Public Works to a) prepare a non-financial MOU, for use with various organizations and agencies, including River LA, to establish information-sharing and collaboration for the preparation of

the Updated Los Angeles River Master Plan; and b) submit the MOU to the Board for approval;

4. Direct the Department of Public Works to engage the Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee (of which the LACFCD and US Army Corps are members) in the process of updating the Los Angeles River Master Plan and to report regularly on its progress to the Committee; and
5. Direct the Department of Public Works to report back quarterly to the Board on its progress in updating the Los Angeles River Master Plan

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